CATTAIL Fide-and-See



If birds played hide-and-seek, American bitterns

would win every time. When pesky predators or nosy bird-watchers come calling, bitterns don't move a feather. Instead, these cattail-colored birds try their best to blend in by standing dead-still with their beaks pointing straight up. Sometimes they even rock back and forth, hoping to look like a cattail swaying in the breeze. They hide so well, bitterns are more often heard than seen. Their mating call—a loud, booming unk-a-lunk—can carry half a mile across the marshes where they live.

IN THE MARSH?